

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 221442Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5461

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8116

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS CU VE

SUBJECT: CUBAN SANCTIONS

REF: STATE 184049

1. WE HAVE ON THREE OCCASIONS BEEN GIVEN FIRM ASSURANCES THAT VENEZUELA WOULD "KEEP ITS WORD" PURSUANT TO PRESIDENT PEREZ'S PLEDGE TO AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD AND ME THAT VENEZUELA WOULD NOT ACT OUTSIDE THE OAS ON THE QUESTION OF CUBAN SANCTIONS AND THAT IT WOULD ACCEDE TO OUR DESIRE THAT FINAL OAS ACTION ON CUBA NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL LATE NOVEMBER. THE MOST RECENT OF THESE ASSEVERATIONS WAS REPORTED IN CARACAS 7852, OF WHICH PARA ONE IS EXPLICIT. FONMIN SCHACHT ALSO IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER MATTER TOLD ME HE THOUGHT PANAMA WOULD IN FACT UNILATERALLY RECOGNIZE CASTRO. HOWEVER, THAT IN NO WAY ALTERED THE VENEZUELAN POSITION.

2. IN CONSEQUENCE, SHOULD I NOW APPEAR AGAIN TO REPEAT OUT HOPES AND FEARS, THE FONMIN WOULD PROBABLY BE OFFENDED AT WHAT HE WOULD CONSTRUE AS APPARENT LACK OF FAITH ON OUR PART IN THE ASSURANCES ALREADY GIVEN US BY THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT. I DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT PANAMA'S ACTION, WHICH WAS ALREADY ANTICIPATED BY VENEZUELA, WILL CAUSE THE VENEZUELAN TO STAMPEDE IN THE DIRECTION OF RECOGNIZING CUBA OUTSIDE THE OAS FRAMEWORK.

THEY WILL, HOWEVER, UNDOUBTEDLY JOIN WITH COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA IN VOTING FOR OAS ACTION (PRESUMABLY THE PERMREPS

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IN WASHINGTON) ESTABLISHING FACIO'S FACT FINDING COMMISSION WITH THE

UNDERSTANDING THAT ITS RETURNS WILL NOT BE IN BEFORE LATE NOVEMBER.

3. IN LIGHT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT
I NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE THE REPRESENTATION AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL.

4. ONE OTHER CONSIDERATION OF LESSER IMPORTANCE IS THAT WITH
THE BROUHAHA OVER SUPPOSED US-VENEZUELAN "PETROLEUM DIPLOMATIC
INCIDENT" (I.E., READ KRUEGER), ANY VISIT I NOW MAKE TO THE
FONMIN WILL BE CONSTRUED BY THE PRESS AS AN ACT OF MEA CULPA
IN RELATION TO THAT EPISODE.
MCCLINTOCK

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